

THE SECTARIAN CRUSADE.

VIEWS OF

HON. OLIVER MOWAT,

PREMIER OF ONTARIO;

HON. S. H. BLAKE,

EX-VICE-CHANCELLOR,

AND

REV. DR. CASTLE,

PRINCIPAL, OF THE BAPTIST COLLEGE, TORONTO,

ON THE

NO-POPERY TORY CRY.

At a public meeting held in Toronto, on Saturday, December 18th, 1886, the following references were made to the introduction of the religious appeals to the electorate with which the country had been ringing for many months.

Hon. Oliver Mowat

said :—" An appeal to the religious sentiments of the people sometimes has been successful in depriving of office for a time **earnest men, good men, religious men, and men of a sound judgment in regard to such matters.** This attempt has been made. Twelve months ago the "No Popery" cry was raised. Who raised it first? Was it an honest cry? We all know that it was raised by the people of the *Mail* a year ago. I have never before supposed that the *Mail* people were very religious people. (Laughter.) I had always been under the impression, from what I saw and heard and knew, that the *Mail* people were very much the other thing. (Laughter.) A cry was raised, therefore, of "Protestantism in danger" by these very strong Protestants. It was raised by Mr. Bunting, of the *Mail*. Mr. Bunting does not write for his paper much; I do not know that he writes for it at all, but he directs its general policy, and, as it seemed, he, a Protestant, became quite excited about religious matters, with a keen eye for Popish aggression and encroachments upon Protestantism. (Laughter.) The *Mail* has a very able editor, a very learned editor; and the *Mail* editor

WHO WRITES THOSE "ANTI-POPISH" ARTICLES,

and has been writing them for the last twelve months, **is a Catholic himself.** (Loud shouts of "The hypocrite?" laughter and excitement.) This alone is sufficient to stamp this cry with hypocrisy—(hear, hear)—and it is no wonder that it failed to have any effect upon the Protestant electors of this country. (Loud cheers.)

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Hon. S. H. Blake,

After reviewing the agitation that resulted in the selection of the Scripture Readings by the representatives of all the Protestant denominations, said :—

“Now, as I said, is it not better for us, like honest men, to say that was the utterance of persons who knew whereof they were speaking, carefully prepared and carefully worded. That was a great advance, a great benefit, and I say that I should prefer my children attending at the Public school should do what we were obliged to do in our International Sunday School Committee, in which were representatives from Canada, United States, England, Ireland, Scotland, Australia, and Africa, representing fourteen millions of people. We found that it was not a good thing to use the whole Bible in teaching, because there were a good many passages which are more suited than others to the children who are under our instruction. We have just closed this month a seven years’ instruction in the Bible; we have commenced with the book of Genesis and finished with the book of Revelation, 336 lessons; and in seven years we go over the various portions of the Bible prepared for the children. I rejoice to find that my child, if at school, gets a very good, thorough knowledge of the Bible, historical and otherwise, in one year, two hundred and eighty-one lessons, extending from the book of Genesis to the book of Revelation. I rejoice to find that the splendid Proverbs occupy a prominent place; that

The Ten Commandments

are there—not, as people would have us believe, only nine of them. “Thou shalt not worship any graven image” is there in just as big print as any of the others—(loud applause)—and I have found there also the thirteenth chapter of Corinthians, and I wish those who are making these charges and this attack upon this book had a little of the spirit as well as the letter of the law. Now I entirely disagree with the remarks that have been made against this book by certain persons occupying positions which should have been held sacred by them, and who were in utter ignorance of its contents. From one pulpit there has come the voice, “Why, we haven’t got in this book the story of the fall of David?” “We haven’t got in this book the story of the strong temptation of Joseph by Mrs. Potiphar!” My friends, fancy! (Applause.) Fancy!! Fancy the peculiar taste of the men who particularly miss these passages; and that from the pulpit, bad enough to think it, but to preach it, so much the worse! But to be serious for a moment. I represent for a moment a girl of nineteen or twenty years of age, in the country, with a class before me of boys and girls, and I am given that selection to read to them! Would you like to have your daughter sitting beside a lump of a boy sixteen or seventeen while this was being read? Sir, I would not. (Applause.) **We must have some common sense in these things.** (Applause.) We find that however good it may be for grown people to take their Bible, and sit down, and mourn as David did over their weakness, or to rejoice with Joseph over the strength which enabled him to overcome his temptation, it is not reasonable to have it read to a mixed class of children fourteen, fifteen, or sixteen years of age, and I heartily approve of the great wisdom of that committee, and I believe that there is an inspiration in these matters, that led them to choose with the great propriety that they have in the historical, biographical, and doctrinal selections, and that led to taking the choicest portions from the various books in the Bible, and putting them in such a way that a class of children should be interested in them, and

Search and read the Scriptures

more fully. (Applause.) Another portion which it was objected has been improperly omitted was 2nd Timothy, iii. :—“All Scripture is given by inspiration.” Sir, that chapter was wisely omitted. One hundred years ago people said it was a bad translation. It should have been “Every Scripture that is inspired,” and if you’ll look up your New Version you’ll find that it is put in such a way. It is “Every Scripture that is inspired.”

ant to say that I was glad that the committee, or one of them, waited upon Archbishop Lynch. (Hear, hear.) I am glad the Roman Catholic Church should consent to this same portion of the Bible which we were reading. (Applause.) I believe that the Bible is God's means of enlightenment, and I say that it would have been a terrible sin for us Protestants, giving an open Bible to our own children, to refuse to give it to the Roman Catholics. (Loud applause.) We are stronger than the Roman Catholics in this Province. Is that a reason why we are to put their neck under our feet? (Cries of "No.") Is that any reason why we should deal with them only on the principle of brute force and brute strength? (Cries of "No.") We are stronger than they. Then let our strength show itself in magnanimity. (Loud applause.) Let our strength show itself in generosity, in a determination that as Protestants we stand shoulder to shoulder against any attack that the Roman hierarchy might make upon our creed: but as Christians and brethren in this grand Province let us not taboo a man who conscientiously worships God in a form different from ours. I claim as large a share of religious liberty myself, and it is

The Large Share of Liberty

that I claim for myself that makes me desire to give others the liberty that I claim for myself. (Terrific applause.) **It would be childish if it was not wicked, folly if it was not a sin, to think otherwise.** I am here this evening because I feel in this case that there has been one of the most pernicious attempts that has ever been made to introduce religious discord into this country to affect an election which should be tried upon the merits of those who are in, and the demerits of those who are out. (Applause.) And as they knew that they would have no chance of success if the issue was tried upon those questions, they sought to direct the attention of the public from the legislation and administration of the Government. It is always, when the mind is roused, a dreadful thing to raise a religious cry against any person. **My friends, let us trample that under foot.** (Applause.) **Don't let us get the thin end of the wedge of discord and disunion into this grand land of ours. Let us determine that all should feel that they can worship God as they please. We are not going to encroach upon the liberty of anyone, and we are not going to allow any to encroach upon our liberty.** (Applause.) At this epoch in the history of our country the man will be a recreant who does not do everything that he can to sustain the honest, upright, true Administration that we have in Ontario, to put back the invaders from our land. Let everyone get up straight before the time, and at the battle "let not your earnest slacken into play," and before this grand audience I may say, "Men who think, and men of action, clear the way!" (Loud and prolonged applause.)

Rev. Dr. Castle,

Principal of the Baptist College, Toronto,

On coming forward was received with cheers. He said:—Mr. Chairman, I am not here to-night as a politician. I have never taken any part whatever in purely political questions during my residence in Canada. My name has been associated, however, with the infamous committee composed of hypocritical ministers of the Gospel, who, in the guise of Protestants, are really Jesuits—(loud cheers and laughter)—and who have been selling out Protestantism to Archbishop Lynch. (Renewed laughter.) A great deal has been said about us, and I think it is only fair that some one of us should stand upon this platform to-night and deliver our souls from

THE AWFUL CHARGES

which have been hurled against us during the last few weeks. I did suppose I was a Protestant. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) I did suppose I was a Protestant of the most

ultra kind. (Cheers.) I did suppose that I belonged to a class of people who prided themselves on the absence of bigotry—(cheers)—who knew what religious liberty meant, and who prized religious liberty—(renewed cheering)—a class of people who, **because they claimed it for themselves, granted it to everybody.** (Great applause.) I have begun to think within the last month, however, that probably, for religious liberty, some Protestants of the Province of Ontario will really have to go and take lessons from the Archbishop. (Loud and prolonged laughter and applause.) I did suppose that the Protestants of Ontario had such a love for the Bible, and such a belief in the Bible, that a great shout, a regular Salvation Army shout of “Hallelujah” would go up when it was known that Archbishop Lynch had approved selections from the Protestant Bible to be read in the Public Schools. (Thunders of applause.) If the Archbishop never did a good thing before in his life, he **did a good thing which should secure for him the enthusiastic commendation of all Protestant people in that.** (Renewed applause.) And especially so when, in reference to these selections of Scripture, the only suggestion which, he made in the way of change was to substitute “who” for the obsolete “which” in the Lord’s Prayer—an awful interference with Protestantism, a terrible attack upon the religious liberty and freedom of Ontario. (Laughter.) So, Mr. Chairman, Protestantism is in great peril. (Cheers and laughter.) But, seriously, Mr. Chairman, I do not intend to-morrow, when I stand in my pulpit, to take politics there. (Great applause.) God forbid that I should lend myself and my sacred office to party, and, under cover of the pulpit and its sacred surroundings, endeavour not only to stir up religious bigotry and hatred, but to use that for the purpose of elevating one party to power at the expense of another. I am not a politician, and I am disposed always to accord worth and character to men of all parties in office when they deserve it. I have looked upon

THE COURSE OF THE PREMIER

of this Province with the highest satisfaction. (Loud and prolonged cheering.) It has seemed to me a most delightful thing that throughout the length and breadth of this land we could look to him who is in the controlling position and feel that we had in that position an honest man—(cheers)—a capable man—(renewed cheers)—a pure man—(more cheering)—a Christian man. (Tremendous applause.) And one of the mysteries of iniquity is how it can be possible for Christian ministers to lend themselves to the tricks of party for the sake of hurling from office a Christian statesman of whom we are all proud. (Thunders of applause.) **Mr. Chairman, I go for the Bible, I go for the selections.** (Hear, hear.) And I rejoice that they have been endorsed, not only by the thirty-eight or thirty-nine who are known to be

DISGUISED JESUITS

—(laughter)—but by the Archbishop himself. (Cheers.) And sir, I hope it will be found that those who are prepared to take all the risk—and it is a terrible risk—of exciting religious bigotry in the community, and of stirring into flames fires which were smouldering in their ashes, causing those fires to blaze forth once more, assuming the awful responsibility involved in fanning into fresh flames the embers of bigotry, and taking that risk, and assuming that responsibility for the sake of political effect, will have so far defeated themselves that there shall go out a voice from the electors of all this Province declaring—down, henceforth and forever, with those who would resort to such a means of gaining political advantage. (Tremendous applause. Mr. Chairman, I desire to offer

A MOTION

to the effect that this meeting rejoices to acknowledge with thanks that, under the Administration of Hon. Oliver Mowat, all denominations and all creeds have had impartial justice.

The reverend gentlemen resumed his seat amidst a perfect hurricane of applause.